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STATEMENT OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN
ON THE BRITISH NOTE WITH RESPECT TO THE
INCIDENTS OF ATTACKS MADE UPON BRITISH
WARSHIPS AND OTHER MERCHANT VESSELS

With regard to the incidents of attacks made upon the British gunboat "Ladybird" and other British merchant vessels by mistake on December 12 at Wuhu and in the vicinity of Nanking, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Koki, HIROTA, in a note dated December 14th, addressed to His Excellency the British Ambassador, Sir Robert Craigie, extended profound apologies on behalf of the Japanese Government. On December 16th, the British Ambassador sent a note concerning the matter to the Foreign Minister, to which the latter handed a reply to the British Ambassador on December 28th.

The contents of the above-mentioned notes have already been made public.

On the morning of December 31st, the British Ambassador sent a final note on the matter to the Foreign Minister informing the latter that the British Government note with appreciation the assurances contained in the Japanese note of December 28 and have learned with satisfaction that the statements of the Japanese note of December 14 apply to merchant vessels as well as to warships and also that the Japanese Government have taken or prepared to take the necessary disciplinary measures and to prevent any repetition.

It is indeed deeply to be deplored that these unfortunate incidents occurred but it is at the same time a matter of congratulation that they should

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have been settled amicably through the traditional spirit of friendship existing between Great Britain and Japan, supported by the attitude of calm and the sincerity which prevailed in both countries in connection with this matter.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, ODO, Nagaharu, Assistant Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Statement of the Foreign Office Spokesman on the British Note with respect to the Incidents of attacks made upon British Warships and other merchant vessels, Jan. 1, 1938" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 30th day of December, 1946.

(signed) Nagaharu ODO
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) H. ISHIDA

英國軍艦其他英國商船攻撃事件に関する英國側通牒に
對する外務省代表者の聲明

十二月十二日無湖並に南京近傍に於て、英國砲艦レディバード號其他英
國艦に對する誤謬に基く攻撃事件に對し、外務大臣岸田弘毅氏は十二月
十四日件通牒に於て、日本政府を代表し、英日大使ロバートクレーリー卿
に對し、深く懇謝の意を表明した。十二月十六日英日大使は本件に對し、
外務大臣宛一通牒を寄せられたが、右に對し外務大臣は十二月二十八日回
答を英日大使に手交した。

右の書通牒の内容については既に公表済である。

十二月三十一日午前英日大使は最終的に外務大臣に本件に關する一通牒
を寄せ、英國政府は十二月二十八日日本側通牒に係附されやことを多と
する旨を傳へ、且つ十二月十四日付日本側通牒は軍に同様商船にも適用さ
れること、又日本政府は必要なる懲戒處置並にこの種事件の反復の防止に
着手乃至右の準備を爲したのを知り顧忌する旨を傳へた。

是等の不尋な事件の發生を見たことは、誠に痛惜に耐えめことである
が、同時に日英兩國間の傳統的親睦精神が、本件に関して日英兩國の平
和が多大度並に誠實と相俟つて、是等事件の友誼の落着を見たことは、

是等の不祥な事件の發生を見たことは、誠に痛心に耐えめことである
が、同時に日英兩國の傳統的親睦精神が、本件に因して日英兩國の平
靜なる程度並に誠實と相俟つて、是等事件の友誼の落着を見たことは、
尤望つべきである。

是等の不尋な事件の發生を見たことは、誠に痛感に耐えめことである
我が多國並に誠實と相俟つて、是等事件の友誼の薄落不見たことは、
實が、同時に日英兩國の傳統的親睦精神が、本件に関して日英兩國の平
和を失へもでいる。